

Allowance

This supplemental allowance is submitted in response to being notified by Applicant's representative of an error in the claims listing in the Notice of Allowance filed 6 January 2011.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-11, 13-18 and 20-25 are allowed as amended in the Examiner's amendment filed 6 January 2011.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach, either alone or in combination, each and every limitation in the claims.

Prior art reference to Blackmon discloses a protection switching device where failed line cards can be switchably replaced with another line card in such a way that any recovery is transparent to peer routers. However, Blackmon does not teach the claimed feature of one component of the switch (a protector) registering with another component (a detector) to be notified of a particular condition of interest. Instead, line cards are notified by a packet forwarding module when a failure occurs, with no prior registration by any line cards.

Art Unit: 2474

Prior art reference to Roberts discloses a network failure recovery mechanism where packet modules of a router consult one another and share routing information and indicate which backup line card to use in case of failure. However, this does not correspond to the claimed limitation of one component of the switch (a protector) registering with another component (a detector) to be notified of a particular condition of interest. While the modules may be communicating in a manner similar to a broad interpretation of "registering," the modules are not registering to be notified of a particular condition of interest.

Prior art reference to Lindskog discloses a fault management architecture where a fault agent can determine whether it can handle a particular fault, and if not, passes the fault data to another component to handle. However, Lindskog is silent on the claim limitation of one component registering with another component to be notified of a particular condition of interest.

Newly cited reference to Natarajan discloses an adaptive data network where components of the network are able to transmit event notification messages relating to changed network conditions to network elements that have registered to receive those types of event notification messages. However, Natarajan discloses this in the scale of network, and not within a single device comprising a detector and a protector.

Therefore, none of the prior art, neither alone or in combination, reasonably teach each and every claimed limitation.

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Applicant's representative has stated on the record that he has invoked means plus function claim construction according to 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph for the limitations in claims 18 and 20-22. After reviewing the claim language and the Specification, it has been determined by the Examiner that the disclosure provides sufficient structure and detailed algorithm.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Curtis A. Alia whose telephone number is (571) 270-3116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9am-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung S. Moe can be reached on (571) 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Aung S. Moe/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2474

/Curtis A Alia/
Examiner, Art Unit 2474
1/27/2011

CAA